



STATE OF WASHINGTON

COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS

COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS

Commission on Hispanic Affairs will meet at *SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE*

The Hispanic community of Skagit County and surrounding areas will be able to present to the Commission its concerns and suggestions.

Press Release 02/24/03-01-VE

Olympia, WA. The Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA) will be holding a public meeting in Mt. Vernon on Saturday, March 8th 2003, starting at 9:00 a.m. The Commission holds these meetings so that the Hispanic community can comment on and discuss issues that are affecting Latinos in the local community as well as statewide. The meeting will be held at Skagit Valley College cafeteria, 2405 E. College Way, Mt Vernon, WA. The meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Any member of the Hispanic community can address the Commission at the public meeting. Due to time constraints, each speaker shall be limited to from 3 to 5 minutes, depending on the number of participants.

The Commission stresses the importance of participation by all members of the Latino community as well as by persons and stakeholders interested in issues facing Hispanics in Washington State.

The Commission will be holding a study session on Friday, March 7th. The meeting is open to the public, however, no public comments will be accepted at this meeting. The study session will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sterling Meadow Apartments Community Center, 512 Sterling Drive, Bellingham, WA.

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The Commission was initially created by Executive Order of the governor and established in statute in 1971. As set forth in state law (RCW 43.115.040) the Commission's role is to:

- Examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Hispanics and make recommendations to the governor and state agencies for changes in programs and laws;
- Advise the governor and state agencies on the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs that relate to the special needs of Hispanics;
- Advise the legislature on issues of concern to the Hispanic community;
- Establish relationships with state agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity and benefits for Hispanics.

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